IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 5 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, add new Claims 13 and 14, and amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A status information sharing system for managing status information of users who ~~handle~~ operate user terminal devices, comprising:

a recognition unit that recognizes a presence or absence ~~user status recognizing means for recognizing statuses~~ of the users ~~who handle said~~ at the user terminal devices;

a search unit that searches schedule information ~~retrieving means for retrieving present schedules from schedule information~~ of ~~the~~ registered users; ~~and~~

a generation unit that generates updated status information ~~generating means for generating status information of the users based on said statuses of the users recognized by said user status recognizing means and said present schedules retrieved by said schedule information retrieving means~~ in accordance with both the recognition of a presence or absence of the users and the searched schedule information; and

an update unit that automatically updates present status information of the users based on the generated updated status information.

2. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein said search unit searches the schedule information of the users for the ~~retrieving means retrieves~~ last and ~~schedules from said schedule information, and said status information generating~~

~~means generates status information of the users based on said~~ present ~~and last schedules retrieved by said~~ schedule information ~~retrieving means and said statuses of the users recognized by said user status recognizing means~~.

3. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein said search unit searches the schedule information ~~retrieving means retrieves next schedules from said schedule information, and said status information generating means generates status information~~ of the users ~~based on said present and~~ for next schedules ~~retrieved by said schedule information retrieving means and said statuses of the users recognized by said user status recognizing means~~.

4. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein said search unit searches the schedule information ~~retrieving means retrieves past schedules from said schedule information, and said status information generating means generates status information~~ of the users ~~based on said present and~~ for past schedules ~~retrieved by said schedule information retrieving means and said statuses of the users recognized by said user status recognizing means~~.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a count unit that counts the ~~counting means for counting a~~ duration of a predetermined status if ~~any of said statuses of the users recognized by said~~ the presence or absence of the user ~~status recognizing means~~ is said predetermined status,

wherein said generation unit ~~status information generating means~~ generates the updated status ~~status~~ information ~~set in advance according to~~ based on the duration counted by said count unit ~~counting means~~.

7. (Currently Amended) A user ~~User~~ terminal device[[s]] that is ~~are~~ capable of communicating with a server device managing schedules of registered users who ~~handle~~ operate ~~the~~ user terminal devices, comprising:

a connection unit that connects to at least a manipulation input device or an imaging device;

an input unit that inputs information from the connected manipulation unit or imaging device;

a generation unit that generates information representing a presence or absence of a user at the user terminal device based on the input information;

a transmission unit that transmits the generated information representing the presence or absence of the user at the user terminal device to the server device;

~~user status recognizing means for recognizing statuses of the users who handle the user terminal devices;~~ and

a receiving unit that receives present status information ~~receiving means for receiving status information, which is generated based on said statuses~~ of the user[[s]] which is updated in accordance with both the transmitted information and the schedule

information managed by the ~~recognized by said user status recognizing means, from said~~ server ~~device~~.

8. (Currently Amended) A server device that is capable of communicating with user terminal devices, comprising:

a recognition unit that recognizes a presence or absence of users at the user terminal devices;

a search unit that searches schedule information of registered users;

a generation unit that generates updated status information in accordance with both the presence or absence of the user and the searched schedule information; and

an update unit that automatically updates the present status information of the users based on the generated updated status information

~~schedule information retrieving means for retrieving present schedules from schedule information of users who handle said user terminal devices;~~

~~user status retrieving means for retrieving statuses of the users; and~~

~~status information generating means for generating status information of the users based on said present schedules retrieved by said schedule information retrieving means and said statuses of the users retrieved by said user status retrieving means.~~

9. (Currently Amended) A control method for controlling a user terminal device[[s]] that is ~~are~~ capable of communicating with a server device for managing schedules of users who ~~handle~~ operate ~~the~~ user terminal devices, comprising:

a connection step of connecting to at least a manipulation input device or an imaging device;

an input step of inputting information from the connected manipulation unit or the imaging device;

a generation step of generating information representing a presence or absence of a user at the user terminal device based on the input information;

a transmission step of transmitting the generated information representing the presence or absence of the user at the user terminal device to the server device;

~~a user status recognizing step for recognizing statuses of the users who handle said user terminal device;~~ and

a ~~status information~~ receiving step of ~~for~~ receiving present status information~~, which is generated based on said statuses~~ of the user[[s]] which is updated in accordance with both the transmitted information and schedule information managed by the ~~recognized by said user status recognizing step, from said~~ server ~~device~~.

10. (Currently Amended) A control method for controlling a server device that is capable of communicating with user terminal devices, comprising:

a recognition step of recognizing a presence or absence of users at the user terminal devices;

a search step of searching [[a]] schedule information ~~retrieving step for retrieving present schedules from schedule information~~ of registered users ~~who handle said user terminal devices~~;

~~a user status retrieving step for retrieving statuses of the users; and~~

a ~~status information generating~~ generation step ~~for~~ of generating updated status information in accordance with both the presence or absence of the users ~~based on said present schedules retrieved by said~~ and the searched schedule information ~~retrieving step and said statuses of the users retrieved by said user status retrieving step~~; and

an update step of automatically updating present status information of the users based on the generated updated status information.

11. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing a program for controlling a user terminal device[[s]] that is ~~are~~ capable of communicating with a server device managing schedules of users who ~~handle~~ operate ~~the~~ user terminal devices, ~~wherein~~ the program comprising:

a connection step of connecting to at least a manipulation input device or an imaging device;

an input step of inputting information from the connected manipulation unit or imaging device;

a generation step of generating information representing a presence or absence of a user at the user terminal device based on the input information;

a transmission step of transmitting the generated information representing the presence or absence of the user at the ~~a user status recognizing step for recognizing statuses of the users who handle said~~ user terminal device to the server device; and

a ~~status information~~ receiving step ~~for~~ of receiving present status information~~, which is generated based on said statuses~~ of the user[[s]] which is updated in

accordance with both the transmitted information and the schedule information managed by the ~~recognized by said user status recognizing step, from said~~ server ~~device~~.

12. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing a program for controlling a server device that is capable of communicating with user terminal devices, ~~wherein~~ the program comprising:

~~a schedule information retrieving step for retrieving a present schedules from schedule information of users who handle said user terminal devices;~~

~~a user status retrieving step for retrieving statuses of the users; and~~

a recognition step of recognizing a presence or absence of the users at the user terminal devices;

a search step of searching schedule information of registered users;

a ~~status information generating~~ generation step of ~~for~~ generating updated status information in accordance with both the presence or absence of the users ~~based on said present schedules retrieved by said~~ and the searched schedule information; and ~~retrieving step and said statuses of the users retrieved by said user status retrieving step~~

an update step of automatically updating ~~the~~ present status information of the users based on the generated updated status information.

13. (New) A system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a transmission unit that transmits the updated present status information of the users to the user terminal devices.

14. (New) A system according to claim1, wherein said recognition unit recognizes the presence or absence of the users based on a status of input from an input device connected to the user terminal devices or an image taken by an image device connected to the user terminal.